

THE ALBANY CULTIVATOR.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET—WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

VOL. 7.

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W. & W. J. BUCKMINSTER.

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AGRICULTURE.

CHESS GROWN FOR FODDER.

A farmer in Andover tells us he sows four acres of chess on his farm to be mown for winter feed. He obtains not less than two tons per acre—sown in September. His chess does well on it and eat it readily; it is as bulky as lucern. He says it requires annual sowing in this respect it does not equal our common grasses. We have never tried chess for fodder, and cannot say whether it should be extensively cultivated.

THE SEASON. This season is quite forward compared with the last. Many farmers have planted their field corn as well as potatoes, and now (May 10) the English chery, the plum, and the peach are in blossom. Grass has grown rapidly since the rain of Wednesday, the third last, and the prospect for hay is never better. Fruits are now abundant, for fruits are more in danger from frosts coming out early. But we never permit any forebodings of misfortune to go into our orchards at this season to blast the fruits.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[For the Ploughman.]

USING WAX FOR GRAFTING.

MR. EDITOR.—I have frequently seen in Agricultural papers, and heard verbal objections raised to the use of wax for grafting where oil was a component part, on account of its poisonous influence on vegetable life, as the article common in use in combination with oil, and that for the purpose of neutralizing its effects. To remedy that objection I would suggest the following experiment to those who think wax adds security to the union of stock and scion sufficient to compensate for the additional trouble; that is, a short time after the union has taken place, take such ingredients as are commonly used in making grafting clay, add one fourth in bulk of good wood ash, and mix it thoroughly. If the graft is well incorporated, then apply this same as if no wax had been used. The alkali in the ash, being set free by the moisture of the compound and also by rain, will unite with the oil in the wax, and form soap, thereby neutralizing its effect. This is the only use of an instrument of graft, as I believe almost all admit that soap is beneficial to trees. The best proportion of ashes may be definitely ascertained by varying the quantity. This I intend to do this year; for I think if we can use wax without injury to the tree, it will be worth some trouble for this reason—after you have set your scions and applied the wax, you cannot acquire an almost impenetrable barrier to the ascending sap at the end of the severed branch and its escape into the atmosphere by evaporation or absorption; thus its course is arrested, and the sap which would otherwise escape by its upward pressure and capillary attraction through the pores of the scion. This I think is not the case where clay is used alone, for it allows the sap to pass, and the scion, being part and it escapes by evaporation, thereby not forming a body of sap to press at the point of union of the stock and scion.

North Chelsea.
[For the Ploughman.]
WIRE GRASS KILLED BY LATE PLOUGHING.—SALT AS A MANURE.
MR. EDITOR.—I have had a few words on my mind to say to you, but did not get around to the sticking point, till I read the communication from your correspondent in the Ploughman of the 5th inst. from the Ploughman, N. H. He says "the Ploughman is the most valuable of nine papers which he reads; but is not so valuable as your correspondents might make it." I will try to be as definite as I can. I have been thinking that, as your numerous readers, may be compared to a company of people who have agreed to meet together weekly to have a repeat upon bread, fruits of various kinds, and vegetables of all sorts, and they have agreed with you to prepare and serve it up for us. Now each one of us has a piece of land that we cultivate according to our own liking. Some with corn, others with grain, others with all kinds of vegetables. Some with fruits, some with flowers, according to our own minds.

Each one of us can send in to you some of our own productions without much trouble or expense, and leave it to you to judge if it is worth the trouble of fitting to make it decent to set upon the table. Let none of us say it is no more, or mine is so small, it is not worth presenting. Potatoes are wanted, choice fruit and flowers will be charming. I hope, Mr. Editor, we shall all send in, so that you may have a constant supply on hand, so as to enable you to continue to give a good meal every week; and that we may become more familiar with each other.

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There has been considerable talk about salt as a manure. We make the greater part of our compost of salt water, and frequently where the heap lays over winter it is so salt that nothing will grow the next season. I have never discovered that it has done any better the succeeding seasons than the land around. Therefore, I conclude that the salt of itself cannot be of much value. If it was we should perceive its odds when it got to be just fresh enough.

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There are in the English language 30,500 nouns, 40 pronouns, 9,200 adjectives, 8,000 verbs, 2,000 adverbs, 59 prepositions, 19 conjunctions, 65 interjections, and 2 articles—in all about 40,000 words.

CULTURE OF CARROTS AND CORN FOR FODDER. &c.—About the time I commenced doing a little business for myself in the way of farming, in the early part of 1846, a friend of mine solicited me to take the Cultivator. Not having a ready command of that little word, I consulted a dictionary, and found that to take is to take, and that for is for, and that the end of the year I was not quite ready to spare the Cultivator, and concluded to take it one year more; and at the close of 1847, I concluded to subscribe for the volume, and prevailed on two or three of my neighbors to "do likewise." It is asked what I have found in its pages to repay the trouble of perusing and the cost of paying for it? I reply, that I think I have obtained more information relative to the business of farming sufficient to compensate me.

At page 217, vol. III, I found a description of a sheep and a full root cellar, from which I made a copy, and have since followed the plan, and two years subscription. I of course varied the plan to suit circumstances. Mine was under a half barn, 10 ft. by 25. Under one half the building the sheep have shelter, and under the other half, the root cellar is located. Of course it is not quite so large as that of our Vernon friend, but otherwise it is similar to his. The passage is through the sheep shelter. It may be well to mention that the sheep shelter is a half filled with straw, and by the aid of the descending ground, and the sheep occupy the lower end, and the cellar is at the upper end. Carrots are the roots I keep in the cellar, and I just mention my mode of cutting them. I made a box of cutting, and for the purpose of one foot wide, and a half foot long, and nailed pieces of boards one foot wide to the sides and ends. A strip of leather nailed at each end, to the sides of the box, forms a handle. It looked like a "little business," and that for the aid of a common spade, ground sharp, they are soon "chopped up," when they are placed in the sheep-troughs and soon devoured. For long hay, I cut a piece of board, and for the purpose of upright pieces of scumling, similar to those described by L. A. Morrell.

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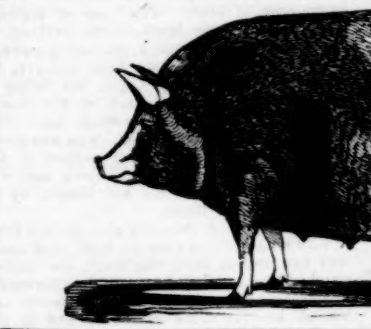
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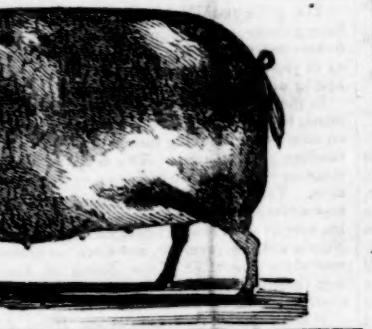
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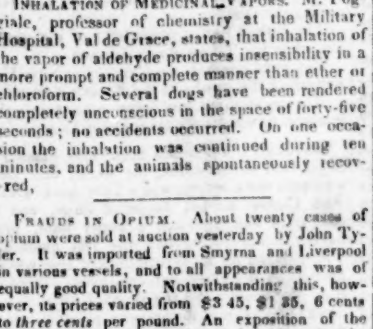
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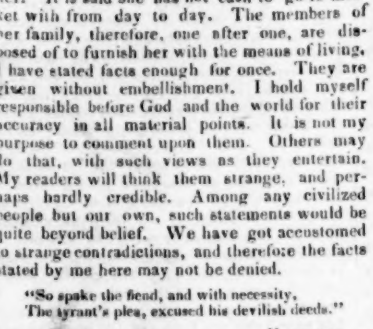
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The yield, though not great, was satisfactory. I have obtained what I wanted, and I am well pleased with the result. I presume they would not hold out by weight. The amount of time spent in ploughing and harrowing the ground, and in sowing, weeding, and harvesting, may be estimated at about 270 bushels of potatoes, five cents per day for labor, and calling the cost of seed and use of land \$3.25, the amount is \$22, which brings the carrots at a little more than eight cents per bushel, which is about as much as potatoes, for horses, cattle, or sheep.

A word as to corn fodder. My garden experiment did very well, and I concluded to "try again." I have been thinking that, as your numerous readers, may be compared to a company of people who have agreed to meet together weekly to have a repeat upon bread, fruits of various kinds, and vegetables of all sorts, and they have agreed with you to prepare and serve it up for us. Now each one of us has a piece of land that we cultivate according to our own liking. Some with corn, others with grain, others with all kinds of vegetables. Some with fruits, some with flowers, according to our own minds.

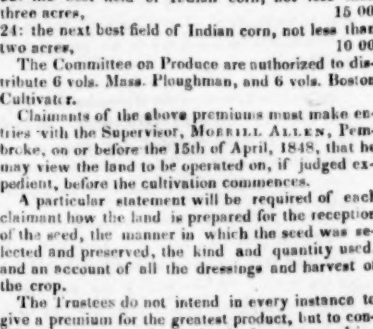
Each one of us can send in to you some of our own productions without much trouble or expense, and leave it to you to judge if it is worth the trouble of fitting to make it decent to set upon the table. Let none of us say it is no more, or mine is so small, it is not worth presenting. Potatoes are wanted, choice fruit and flowers will be charming. I hope, Mr. Editor, we shall all send in, so that you may have a constant supply on hand, so as to enable you to continue to give a good meal every week; and that we may become more familiar with each other.

You requested some of us last fall to try experiments upon wire grass or dog grass, as it is commonly called here. I planted a piece last year which was very full, kept it as well as I could, and the autumn as I could, crossed ploughed as late as I dared to let it remain for fear of the frost, hallowed early this spring, and have ploughed it again, and the roots appear to be almost entirely dead.

There has been considerable talk about salt as a manure. We make the greater part of our compost of salt water, and frequently where the heap lays over winter it is so salt that nothing will grow the next season. I have never discovered that it has done any better the succeeding seasons than the land around. Therefore, I conclude that the salt of itself cannot be of much value. If it was we should perceive its odds when it got to be just fresh enough.

I remain yours, in the cause of human improvement,
THOMAS HASKELL.
Gloucester, April 24th, 1848.

WE are confident from some trials of our own that late ploughing and harrowing, just before winter, has a good effect on wire or pig-weed. It can be entirely rooted out by proper hoeing in dry weather. The roots should be chopped up fine. As to salt, we can say but little of its fertilizing qualities. Probably it will be found more useful to destroy vermin than to furnish nutriment to plants. Lime and salt may be ranked together when nutritive properties are spoken of. [Editor.]



SWINE.

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New-Orleans, 1st May, 1848.

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